

respectfully submits that the cited Kourtides et al, United States Patent No. 5,038,693, (hereinafter Kourtides) does not anticipate the present invention.

As can be seen from the Jepson form of claim 1, the present invention is a stitchbonded fabric that is characterized by a non-fibrous layer of polymer or metal and at least one set of stitching thread comprising a contractible yarn. Each of claims 2, 3, 5 and 6, is dependent on claim 1. Thus, a material element in each pending claim of the present application is a stitching thread of contractible yarn. This essential feature of the invention is emphasized in many places in the specification. The present specification discloses that the contractible yarns cause the stitchbonded fabric with its non-fibrous layer to contract to a width and/or length that is 90% or less than the original length and/or width of the layer. See page 1, lines 15, 31, page 4, lines 5-31, page 6, lines 26-28 and each of the Examples.

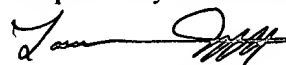
In contrast to the contractible stitching yarn of the present invention, the cited Kourtides patent describes a layered structure quilted together with ceramic thread (e.g., silicon carbide). Ceramic thread is not an elongatable or contractible thread. The elastic modulus of ceramic thread is orders of magnitude higher (i.e., stiffer) than the elastic modulus of the typical contractible thread suitable for use in the present invention. Nowhere does the text of Kourtides disclose a stitching thread that is contractible. Claims 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6 are novel over Kourtides.

CONCLUSION

In view of the preceding Amendment and Remarks, Applicant considers the currently pending claims to be in a condition for allowance and courteously requests the Examiner to withdraw the outstanding rejection and pass the application to issue.

The Examiner is hereby authorized to charge any fee that may be required as a result of this communication to Deposit Account No. 5001279 (Lawrence Isakoff).

Respectfully submitted,



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